

PRELIMINARY PLANNING CRITERIA

The Uncompahgre BLM staff has developed preliminary planning criteria. Planning criteria establish constraints, guidelines, and standards for the planning process. They help planners define the scope of the process and estimate the extent of data collection and analysis. Planning criteria are based on standards prescribed by applicable laws and regulations, agency guidance, results of consultation and coordination with the public, other federal, state and local agencies, Indian tribes, analysis of information pertinent to the planning area, and professional judgment.

The BLM requests your input, and may modify these criteria based on your comments.

- The proposed RMP will comply with FLPMA and all other applicable laws, regulations, and policies.
- Impacts from the management alternatives considered in the revised RMP will be analyzed in an EIS developed in accordance with regulations at 43 CFR 1610 and 40 CFR 1500.
- Lands covered in the RMP will be public land and split estates managed by BLM. No decisions will be made relative to non-BLM administered lands.
- For program specific guidance of land use planning level decisions, the process will follow the Land Use Planning Manual 1601 and Handbook H-1601-I, Appendix C.
- Broad-based public participation will be an integral part of the planning and EIS process.
- The planning team will work cooperatively with the State of Colorado, tribal governments, county and municipal governments, other federal agencies, the South West RAC, cooperating agencies and all other interested groups, agencies, and individuals.
- Decisions in the plan will strive to be compatible with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, and federal agencies as long as the decisions are consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of federal law, and regulations applicable to public lands.
- BLM will consult with the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The RMP will recognize the State's responsibility and authority to manage wildlife.
- The RMP will recognize the Office of Surface Mining's responsibility and authority to regulate coal activities.
- BLM will recognize the State's responsibility for permitting related to oil and gas activities and in regulating air quality impacts.
- BLM will recognize the State's responsibility for permitting related to uranium, coal, and sand and gravel activities, and in regulating water quality impacts.
- The National Sage-grouse Strategy requires that impacts to sagebrush habitat and sagebrush-dependent wildlife species be analyzed and considered in BLM land use planning efforts for public lands with sagebrush habitat in the planning area.
- The RMP will recognize valid existing rights.
- The planning process will incorporate Colorado's Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
- Wilderness Study Areas will continue to be managed under the Interim Management Policy (IMP) for Lands under Wilderness Review until Congress either designates all or portions of the WSA as wilderness or releases the lands from further wilderness consideration. It is no longer the policy of the BLM to make formal determinations regarding wilderness character, to designate additional WSAs through the RMP process, or to manage any lands other than existing WSAs in accordance with the Wilderness IMP.
- The planning process will involve American Indian tribal governments and will provide strategies for the protection of recognized traditional uses.
- Any location-specific information pertaining to cultural resources (either map, description, or photo) is proprietary to the BLM and will not become the property of any contractors working on the EIS or attached to any document (paper or electronic), nor is this information subject to any public release or FOIA requests (36CFR 7.18).
- The RMP will include adaptive management criteria and protocol to deal with future issues.
- A reasonable foreseeable development scenario for fluid minerals, and reports for uranium and coal, will be developed from analysis of past activity, production, and other sources, which will aid in developing alternatives and in the environmental consequences analysis.